5

Booby Head, Sharply Pointed Coronet

Obverse 5: Booby Head; exposed shoulder. Coronet tip is much more pointed than on other Booby Head dies, splaying far left from the top of L similar to the Silly Head dies. Ninth star is boldly recut along the right of its lowest point. Very faint hints of a raised ring appear before the ear, and the curl is broken before the center of the ear.

Striking Variations: Dentilation fades slightly. No cracks seen.

5

E

No Underline, No Inner Berry at (CEN)T

Reverse E: This die is extremely similar to Reverse H, but the legend and wreath are stronger and the dentilation is not as crisp as on 39-10. No underline below CENT. Stems and outer berry below TE(D) are complete. There is no inner berry right of T in CENT (diagnostic). There is a doubling between the outer two leaves under IC, almost as if this leaf pair was intended as a triplet. On worn examples, this is still quite apparent as a double leaftip under C. The broken left pendant of T in CENT is poorly repaired, producing a 'notched top' to this letter. The I of UNITED, A of STATES, and final A of AMERICA each point between dentils. On the extremely similar Reverse H, these letters are all dotted.

Discussion: R1, quite common below MS. MS(10+), AU(several), XF(many many). In 1979 I published that 39-5 and 39-10 were the same reverse die. In 1993 Randy Snyder proved me wrong. Though fascinating as the most highly distinctive booby, the "Sharp Coronet"/"Missing Berry" is far too common to command a premium.

39-10

5

10

H

Booby Head, Sharply Pointed Coronet

No Underline, Small Berry Right of (CEN)T

Obverse 5: Booby Head; exposed shoulder. Coronet tip is much more pointed than on other Booby Head dies, splaying far left from the top of L similar to the Silly Head dies. Ninth star is boldly recut along the right of its lowest point. Very faint hints of a raised ring appear before the ear, and the curl is broken before the center of the ear.

Reverse H: This die appears on varieties 10-12-7. Extremely similar to reverse E, but wreath and legend are weaker and dentilation is bolder. No underline below CENT. Stems and outer berry below TE(D) are complete. Inner berry right of T in CENT is a small lump. There is a doubling between the outer two leaves under IC, almost as if this leaf pair was intended as a triplet. On worn examples, this is still quite apparent as a double leaftip under C. The broken left pendant of T in CENT is poorly repaired, producing a 'notched top' to this letter. Dentilation is extremely bold. I of UNITED, A of STATES, and final A of AMERICA are each dotted by a dentil.

Striking Variations: Obverse is always lapped, showing an abcess behind Miss Liberty's lips. Reverse seems to be a late, lapped and touched-up version of Reverse E, but the dentilation is bold. No cracks seen.

Discussion: R3-, rather common below MS. MS(4), AU(6+), XF(20+). This was first published by Newcomb in 1940 as a new variety, then was de-listed by me in 1979 as a touch-up of Reverse E, then was proven by Randy Snyder in 1993 to be a different reverse die. Newcomb was right and Wright was wrong (this time). The scarcer "Sharp Coronet" normally commands a little extra, but patience will usually turn one up for no premium.